



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 650

LCO No. 4229



Referred to Committee on CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CREATING A PARENTS' SUPPORT HOTLINE FOR PARENTS
OF CHILDREN EXHIBITING MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ISSUES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) The Commissioner of
2 Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, provide a
3 telephone hotline for any parent or guardian of a child exhibiting signs
4 of mental or behavioral health issues to access for information and
5 assistance. Such hotline shall: (1) Accept all reports of mental or
6 behavioral health issues regarding children within the state; (2)
7 provide emergency services, including, but not limited to, mobile
8 response, psychiatric assessment, medical consultation and substance
9 abuse screening; (3) provide crisis response and crisis stabilization
10 services; and (4) provide counseling and referral services to any parent,
11 guardian or immediate family member of a child exhibiting signs of
12 mental or behavioral health issues. For purposes of this section,
13 "immediate family member" means any person related by blood,
14 adoption or marriage to a child.

15 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) Not later than October 1, 2014, the

16 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall identify a
 17 college or university within the state that conducts mental and
 18 behavioral health research. Not later than January 1, 2015, the
 19 department shall, in conjunction with such college or university, and
 20 within available appropriations, develop and implement a pilot
 21 program to explore and address the mental and behavioral health of
 22 children in the state. Such pilot program shall: (1) Educate parents and
 23 guardians on the warning signs associated with mental or behavioral
 24 health issues; (2) provide counseling and resources for any children
 25 exhibiting signs of mental and behavioral health issues; and (3)
 26 establish a community outreach initiative to raise awareness of mental
 27 or behavioral health issues within the state.

28 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, the department shall report, in
 29 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
 30 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 31 matters relating to children, with respect to the status and effectiveness
 32 of the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this
 33 section.

34 (c) The pilot program shall terminate on January 1, 2016.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section

KID

Joint Favorable C/R

APP